Pest Detection and Management Programs

Plant Protection and Quarantine Weekly Notice, March 21, 2005

This "Weekly Notice" is prepared by the Pest Detection and Management Programs (PDMP) to communicate recent important events. These notices and other more detailed program information can be found at: http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq/ep/reports/

Asian Longhorned Beetle (ALB)
New Jersey:
As of March 16, 2005, 2,446 trees have been removed from the Middlesex/Union counties ALB infestation site. Of those 484 were infested host trees and 1,962 were high risk exposed host trees. Crews continued to work removing trees this week in the residential areas of Carteret. Currently 13 program personnel from USDA APHIS PPQ, NJ Department of Agriculture, NJ Forest Service are performing survey, control and regulatory activities. Nine USDA Forest Service (FS) Smokejumpers, along with 13 contacted tree climbers from Bartlett Tree Expert Company, continue to survey trees this week in the Middlesex/Union ALB infestation site.

Program staff gave a tour of the Middlesex/Union Counties infestation site to six members of the New Jersey State Forestry Counsel.

On March 15, the *Woodbridge Sentinel* ran two articles on page one and the *Edison Sentinel* ran an article on page one, covering the tree removal process being conducted in the Middlesex/Union counties ALB infestation site.

New York:
A total of 2,450 trees were surveyed this week with no infested trees detected. The six USDA FS Smokejumpers climbed and inspected trees in Central Park; they were assisted by the Central Park Conservatory personnel. To date, there have been 6,195 infested trees detected in New York.

Program staff are concentrating their efforts in preparation for the start of the 2005 chemical treatments. Projected start date is April 4.

The program is addressing several issues with the chemical treatment applications with New York State Department of Environmental Conversation: label information notification requirements and a state exemption for the trunk injection application.

Numerous outreach activities were conducted this week. ALB Booth Displays were presented at the Making Brooklyn Bloom Festival, The Home Expo Show at the Queens Community College, and the Green Thumb Grow Together Conference at the Hostos Community College in the Bronx. ALB Presentations were given to the Marine Park Civic Association, The New England Pest Counsel/Society of American Foresters and the Long Island Releaf Meeting.

Illinois:
The Illinois Department of Agriculture sent out a media advisory March 16, on the series of Public hearing meetings, being held March 31, in Park Ridge, Bensenville and Ravenswood, to announce the deregulations of sections of the ALB Quarantine Areas in Illinois. Work continues on setting up a press event for mid-April (April 12, 18, or 20) with the Mayor of Chicago, APHIS and State officials for a deregulation signing ceremony.

As of March 11, a total of 25,876 trees have been surveyed for the year with no signs of ALB infestations.

The projected start date for the chemical treatments in Illinois is April 18. Treatments will only be applied to host trees located within the Oz Park area of Chicago. Approximately 4,200 trees are targeted for treatment this year.
Contact: Christine Markham

Aquatic Snail
The Mollusk Action Plan Working Group met in Houston, Texas last week to learn what is known about mollusks in the family Ampullariidae, or aquatic snails. The information will be used to write a New Pest Response Guidelines for plant pests in this family. Working group members gave presentations or facilitated discussions on aspects of taxonomy, survey,

regulatory, control and pathway issues. Participants heard presentations from university researchers in the area, from Dr. Rob Hollingsworth of ARS, Hilo, HI, Dr. Robert Howells of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, and Dr. Ravi Joshi, researcher from the Philippines Rice Research Institute who is an authority on channeled applesnail problems in Asia. Attendees included PPQ identifiers, a Pest Survey Specialist and SITC officer from Texas, National Plant Board representatives, a rice researcher from Louisiana State University, and an Aquatic Nuisance Species Taskforce regional representative from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. On the afternoon of the second day, participants took a field trip to a see channeled applesnail infestations in a golf course pond and in bayous near Galveston Bay. The meeting was organized by the Pest Detection and Management Programs (PDMP) Planning and Preparedness staff.
Contact: Joel Floyd

Weeds Program
Al Tasker sponsored an advance showing of the video "Invaders", March 22, for PDMD and other interested APHIS staff. This show is a part of the National Geographic's "Strange Days on Planet Earth" series to be shown on PBS. The one hour video was followed by a discussion with Dave Aplin, a staffer with Sea Studios Foundation, co-producer of the television series. The video features ecological and economic impacts of several invasive species in the U.S. and overseas. Video and audio production was excellent.

Sue Cohen of APHIS Policy and Program Development is sponsoring another showing on Thursday, March 31, 2005, from 10:00 am - 12:00 pm in Training Rooms 3 & 4.

If you miss both these showings, you may still watch it on PBS (http://www.pbs.org) on Wednesday, April 20, 2005.
Contact: Al Tasker

Soybean Rust
A weekly Soybean Rust Conference Call for various stakeholders was organized on Wednesday, March 23, 2005, at 1:00 P.M. At least 33 participants representing USDA-APHIS, ARS, CSREES, RMA, American Soybean Association, State agriculture departments, and industry were present on the call. A similar conference call is planned for every Wednesday at 1 P.M. for a duration of at least 1 hour.

Minnesota (John Sierk) and South Dakota (Marty Draper) have submitted a request to add tebuconazole + pyraclostrobin (Headline SBR, Headline STAR) to their initial quarantine exemption request for soybean rust (SBR) on soybeans. Other states may wish to submit the same request, citing the MN/SD.

So far the **SCOREBOARD OF FUNGICIDES APPROVED, REGISTERED, OR PENDING** is as following:
a) **Approved** Quarantine Exemptions (Section 18s) for Soybean Rust on Soybeans: myclobutanil (Laredo), propiconazole (Tilt, Propimax, Bumper), tebuconazole (Folicur) trifloxystrobin + propiconazole (Stratego), tetraconazole (Domark),
b) **Registered** Fungicides to Manage SBR on Soybeans: azoxystrobin (Quadris), chlorothalonil (Bravo and Echo), and pyraclostrobin (Headline)
c) **Pending** Actions to Manage SBR on Soybeans: azoxystrobin + propiconazole (Quilt), tebuconazole + pyraclostrobin (Headline SBR, Headline STAR). Request for 3 applications of Section 18 fungicides/acre, instead of present 2 application limit.

A third positive find of Asian soybean rust on kudzu was confirmed by Florida state agricultural officials on Monday (March 21, 2005) in Hernando County in west-central Florida. The new finds are on old leaves (overwintered) and new growth of kudzu. This is the first find involving new-foliage kudzu in 2005. Hernando county is one county north of the previously identified county (Pasco) with Asian soybean rust (see http://spdn.ifas.ufl.edu/Florida_Soybean_Rust.htm).

No Asian soybean rust was found in Hidalgo county of Texas in surveillance activities to date.

The National Agricultural Aviation Association members are preparing to combat Asian Soybean Rust before potential outbreaks occur (see www.agaviation.org.)

USDA has provided training to detect and identify SBR morphologically and by real-time PCR to over 100 scientists at land grant universities, state departments of agriculture, from industry and in other countries, including Canada.

APHIS/PPQ personnel have participated in more than 30 CSREES-sponsored state National Plant Diagnostic Network (NPDN) exercise training scenarios that simulated the detection of soybean rust. These are designed to prepare first detectors, diagnosticians and state regulatory officials for the first detection of SBR or another program pest and to facilitate rapid identification and communication.

Contact: Anwar Rivzi